

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 164

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Lady Naomi Jenkins on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm over their years of industry to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated public servant is Lady Naomi Jenkins, who has helped to lead the congregation of Saint John Baptist Church in Clarksville, alongside her husband, Pastor Jerry Jenkins; she currently serves as the Minister of Music, a youth advisor, and she teaches the Mixed Adult Sunday School class; and

WHEREAS, Lady Jenkins, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors, has taken a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Elder J.C. and Versie Mae Donald, Naomi Jenkins was born on January 19, in Enterprise, Alabama; she completed her formal and higher education at Bellwood High School in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, a woman of many gifts and talents, Mrs. Jenkins realized at the tender age of seven that she had a special interest in music; she later understood that this was her calling from God and would express her witness of Him through the medium of music; and

WHEREAS, she taught special education in the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Schools for fifteen years; she earned a reputation for assisting students once labeled "disabled" to succeed beyond goals thought unattainable; and

WHEREAS, Lady Jenkins felt a passion for music and for young people's growth and spiritual development; those passions would weave their way throughout her life's pursuits; and

WHEREAS, a creative ministry leader and accomplished orator, Lady Jerkins is frequently sought for speaking engagements and travels extensively for conferences, as well as Women's Day and music events; and

WHEREAS, she has served as Director of Music for the Tennessee Baptist State Convention and Director of Music for the Cumberland River South Kentucky Middle Tennessee District Association for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Naomi Jerkins also founded several musical groups such as the Spiritualettes, the Saint John Radio Choir, and Christian Women Around the Clock, and she served as Director of the 300-member National Baptist Convention Musical Choir; she has lent her outstanding talents as a music consultant to the Ohio Baptist State Convention and as a frequent praise leader in numerous national sessions; and

WHEREAS, a teacher in the National Baptist Congress, Lady Jerkins' classes are renowned for being highly requested and overfilled; and

WHEREAS, she organized the Clarksville Ministers Wives Union in 1987, and still serves as president today; she also organized "Women Reaching Women," which includes all of the women ministries of Saint John Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Lady Jerkins is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, she founded People Helping People, Inc. (PHP), an organization that provides the people of Clarksville with monetary support for medical and utility assistance during winter months; as Executive Director of PHP, Naomi Jerkins has galvanized the music community to lift their voices in an annual benefit concert to raise the funds needed to support such a noble cause; and

WHEREAS, PHP has aided thousands of Clarksville citizens and its concept has spread to other cities, including St. Augustine, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the virtuous Lady Jerkins believes that one's purpose in life is to glorify God, and she best conveys this belief through her oft spoken expression, "When God controls our lives, He will shape us into whatever and whoever He wants us to be – it is all about servitude."; and

WHEREAS, Lady Jerkins is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her husband, Pastor Jerry Jerkins; together they are the proud parents of two sons, Jeffery and Jerald Marc-Anthony, and identical twin daughters, Jennifer and Jacqueline; and

WHEREAS, the Jerkins' also enjoy the company of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career as a public servant, spiritual leader, and gifted singer, Mrs. Jerkins has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her friends, her family, her peers, and the many and diverse members of her congregation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Lady Naomi Jerkins our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, commend her for her many years of honorable service and spiritual inspiration to her community, and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.